

# The Style Invitational

## THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

### Week 726: Limerixon 4

It's time for our annual visit to the indefatigable Chris J. Strolin and his Omnificent English Dictionary in Limerick Form. When we last checked in (52 weeks ago) with Chris J. and his minions of online OEDILFers all working toward the goal of writing limericks for every word in the English language, they had posted more than 30,000 and were then up to words beginning with ca-. Now Chris J. reports that the site has passed the 42,000 mark and still is navigating the high C's. **This week: Supply a humorous limerick based on any word in the dictionary beginning with cl- through co-.** The limerick can define the word (as most of the OEDILF limericks do) or simply make its meaning clear (maybe even without saying it), as in the example above, which was penned by the onetime Czar of

**There's a word with "C-L" that is titterous, And it's making the Empress all jitterous. To be perfectly clear, Here's the thing that we fear: With unprintable entries you'll litter us.**

[www.oedilf.com](http://www.oedilf.com). Her standards are stricter than some people's, looser than others. Once we run the results on Sept. 8, you may submit your entries (getting ink here or not) to the Oedilfers as well. Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. First runner-up gets two excellent volumes: a colorful 2006 year-in-review in Swedish, and the Candace Bushnell novel "Blondynki," often known as "Blondes" when not translated into Polish.

The Style Invitational with the warning "If you conclude it is not genius, I resign from life." (He lives, after a bit of imperial editing for meter in Line 1.)

For the Empress's guidelines on limerician rhyme and meter, see the link at



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**Honorable Mentions** (or whatever they're called that week) get one of the lusted-after Style Invitational Magnets. One prize per entrant per week. Send your entries by e-mail to [losers@washpost.com](mailto:losers@washpost.com) or by fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Aug. 20. Put "Week 726" in the subject line of your e-mail, or it risks

being ignored as spam. Include your name, postal address and phone number with your entry. Contests are judged on the basis of humor and originality. All entries become the property of The Washington Post. Entries may be edited for taste or content. Results will be published Sept. 8. No purchase required for

entry. Employees of The Washington Post, and their immediate relatives, are not eligible for prizes. Pseudonymous entries will be disqualified. The revised title for next week's contest is by Tom Witte of Montgomery Village. This week's Honorable Mentions name is by Jon Reiser of Hilton, N.Y.

### REPORT FROM WEEK 721

Our perennial "Jeopardy"-ish contest, except that all the "answers" consisted of *Googlenopes* (unique search engine hits) submitted in the Week 717 contest:

**4 Museum of Suburban Culture:** What description did Lawrence Small put on his Smithsonian expense account after putting a chandelier in his garage? (Eric Murphy, Ann Arbor, Mich.)

**3 Pamela Anderson's elbow:** What's the centerfold in this month's *Rumspringa Magazine*? (Kyle Hendrickson, Frederick)

**2 Winner of the rubber sea urchin hat:** That controversial "Gilligan's Island" episode: What's the one where the Professor uses stem cells from Mary Ann's and Ginger's aborted fetuses to save the life of the Skipper? (Mark Hagenau, Derry, N.H.)

### AND THE WINNER OF THE INKER

More bizarre than Karl Rove dancing: What is Scooter Libby walking? (Steve Ettinger, Chevy Chase)

### AND THESE PARTING GIFTS GO TO ...

**THE UPSIDE OF TOOTH LOSS:** What is Chapter 3 of the Happy Hooker's new book for older women? (Michael Seaton, Bowie)

**What is getting a million-dollar tabloid photo of Allen Iverson's fist two inches from your face?** (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

**What is the ability to warm your nose with your lower lip?** (Russ Taylor, Vienna)

**MUSEUM OF SUBURBAN CULTURE:** Where can you find mummies buried under piles of laundry? (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

**What is the back seat of a minivan?** (D.L. Williams, Bethesda)

**What museum receives only a handful of visitors each year, but still plans to add on a sunroom for entertaining?** (Jon Shaner, Grand Rapids, Mich.)

**What's not nearly as depressing at the Museum of Urban Crime?** (Tom Witte, Suburbia)

**ARKANSAS AND OLD LACE:** What did Kirstie Alley wear to the Emmys? (Sue Lin Chong, Baltimore)

**What is currently on top of Bill Clinton's grandma?** (Jay Shuck, Minneapolis)

**What was the nickname for the unsuccessful presidential ticket of Mike Huckabee and Barney Frank?** (Andrew Hoenig, Rockville)

**What are two things Hillary Clinton wouldn't be caught dead in?** (Russ Taylor, Mike Fransella, Arlington)

**OUTHOUSE LOVESEATS:** What does the Court-A-Potty company specialize in? (D.L. Williams)

**What furniture is artsy and also fartys?** (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

**What furniture was custom-made for Chang and Eng Bunker?** (Jeffrey Susser, Silver Spring)

**Where would "kissy-poo" be an apt term of endearment?** (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

**MORE BIZARRE THAN KARL ROVE DANCING:** What is Dennis Kucinich singing "Sixteen Tons"? (Judith Cottrill, New York)

**AN INAPPROPRIATE TIME TO WEAR A KILT:** What is parachuting into the Everglades? (Steve Fahey, Kensington)

**What is your day to lead the "Visit Metro's Longest Escalators" tour?** (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

**What's Free Bratwurst Day at the dog track?** (Beth Baniszewski, Somerville, Mass.)

**What's true of getting stopped by the Malibu police that isn't true of filming "Braveheart"?** (Russell Beland, Springfield)

**HOMER SIMPSON'S DOCTORAL THESIS:** What is "Dynamics of Gastrointestinal Interspersion of Sucrose-Infused Carbohydrate Toroids Within a 5 Percent Ethyl Alcohol Medium"? (Tom Savonick, Milford, N.J.)

**If you sat three monkeys at typewriters for one hour ... ?** (Andrew Hoenig)

**What's on the bookshelf between Ashlee and Jessica Simpson's doctoral theses?** (Pam Sweeney, Germantown)

**THAT CONTROVERSIAL "GILLIGAN'S ISLAND" EPISODE:** What was the one where, right before his big date with Ginger, the Professor synthesized Rohypnol from a banana, seaweed and the Skipper's hat? (Marc Leibert, New York)

**What eventually caused Bob Denver to lose out to Marlon Brando for the role of Don Corleone?** (Bruce Alter, Fairfax Station)

**HAZY, HOT, HUMID AND HAPPY:** What subtitle comes after "The Earth" in the title of the Bush administration's report on global warming? (Evan Allgood, Alexandria)

**Instead of the names of the days, what words does Britney Spears put on a week's worth of panties?** (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

**How does the Secret Service refer to Scooter, Condi, Cheney and Bush?** (Elwood Fitzner, Valley City, N.D.)

**PAMELA ANDERSON'S ELBOW:** What is the only part of Pamela Anderson's body without a warranty? (Eric Murphy)

**At the onset of puberty, a boy's diagnosis of "Little League elbow" is reclassified as what ailment?** (Chris Rollins, Cumberland, Md.)

**What is represented by the left or right symbol in the following rebus? < ( ) >** (Jennifer Rubio, Oakton)

**What can definitely be differentiated from Pamela Anderson's behind?** (Jeff Contompassi, Ashburn)

**What will Pamela Anderson's breast be adjacent to when she turns 50?** (Leigh Giza, Centerville)

**TOO OSTENTATIOUS FOR DONALD TRUMP:** Can you explain the concept of "null set"? (Steve Ettinger)

**What is the name of that new fragrance by P. Diddy?** (John Conti, Norfolk, Mass.)

**What is one thing that wearing a mink toupee and shoes made from giant panda leather, while dining on truffle-stuffed hummingbirds, is not?** (Russ Taylor)

Next Week: Name Your Poison, or Two Parts Grin, One Part Uncouth

### BRIDGE | Frank Stewart

N-S vulnerable

#### NORTH

- ♠ K J 10 5
- ♥ K J 3
- ♦ 9 8 6 3
- ♣ K 4

#### WEST

- ♠ 8 7 6 4
- ♥ A 5
- ♦ J 7
- ♣ J 10 9 7 6

#### EAST

- ♠ A 2
- ♥ Q 7 2
- ♦ Q 10 5 4 2
- ♣ 8 5 2

#### SOUTH (D)

- ♠ Q 9 3
- ♥ 10 9 8 6 4
- ♦ A K
- ♣ A Q 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Opening lead: ♣ J

**C**y the Cynic says if some people could be aroused as easily as their suspicions, they wouldn't need an alarm clock to get up every morning.

In today's deal, South won the first club with the queen and led the 10 of trumps for a finesse. East took the queen, huddled, and led the ace and a low spade. When South led another trump, West won and led a third spade, and East ruffed for the setting trick.

South, being a naturally suspicious sort of player, muttered darkly about East's defense.

"I'd have expected him — or anybody — to shift to a diamond up to dummy's weakness at the third trick," South growled. "How'd he know I had three spades to the queen, and his partner had the ace of trumps?"

Was East's defense logical or did he sneak into the club one night and mark the cards?

It doesn't pay to assume an expert defender has aces up his sleeve: His powers of inference are formidable. East could infer that West had the ace of trumps since if South had it he would have cashed it before finessing or would have finessed through East. But since West had also showed the jack of clubs, South, who leaped to game, surely had to hold all of the missing high honors including the A-K of diamonds.

Moreover, South's bid of 1NT showed balanced distribution, but if South had A-K-J or A-K-7 in diamonds, West would have led his singleton at Trick One. So East played South for the doubleton A-K of diamonds and therefore 3-5-2-3 distribution.

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## In Iraq & Elsewhere, Bomb-Sniffing Dogs Soldier On

By JEFF DONN  
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — When he came to, the Marine's arm hung lamely. It was broken by ball bearings hurled so hard from a suicide bomb that they embedded themselves in his gun as well as his body. Yet Brendan Poelaert's thoughts quickly turned to his patrol dog.

The powerful Belgian Malinois named Flapoor had served him as partner and protector for the past four months in Iraq. Now the dog staggered a few steps along the Ramadi street, then stared blankly. Blood poured from his chest.

"I didn't care about my injuries, my arm," his handler says. "I'm telling the medic, 'I got to get my dog to the vet!'"

About 2,000 of these working dogs confront danger alongside U.S. soldiers, largely in the Middle East. Able to detect scents up to a third of a mile away, many sniff for explosives in Iraq. Their numbers have been growing about 20 percent a year since the terrorist attacks of 2001, says Air Force Capt. Jeffrey McKamey, who helps run the program.

In doing their jobs, dozens of these dogs have also become war wounded — scorched by the desert, slashed by broken glass, hit by stray bullets, pounded by roadside bombs.

Their services are so valued that wounded dogs are treated much like wounded troops. "They are cared for as well as any soldier," says Senior Airman Ronald A. Harden, a dog handler in Iraq.

Their first aid comes out of doggy field kits bearing everything from medicine to syringes. Some are evacuated to military veterinary centers hundreds of miles away, or even to Germany or the United States for rehabilitation. Many recover and return to duty.

On the day of the Ramadi blast in January 2006, Poelaert, trained in veterinary first aid, began care as soon as he and Flapoor were loaded into an SUV. He pressed his finger to the dog's chest to slow the bleeding.

When they reached the base camp, a medic with veterinary training took over, starting Flapoor on an IV. Poelaert departed reluctantly for his own surgery.

Flapoor would eventually go to Baghdad, where he received additional treatment for his punctured lung and stomach wounds. He would later rejoin his handler and fly in a cargo plane to the United States for physical rehab.

Healing under the California sun at Camp Pendleton, Flapoor is pretty much back to normal: fast, friendly, eager to please. But some things have changed. "He's really jump around loud noises now," Poelaert says.

Dogs take their basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, where they learn to tolerate the crack of gunfire and sputter of helicopters. They are trained to sniff for explosives on command, freezing and staring at suspicious objects.

Merely baring their teeth, they can intimidate a crowd. Commanded to strike, they can flatten a big man with one leap, flying like a



BY LENNY IGNELZI — ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Marine Cpl. Megan Leavey with Flapoor, who was injured by an explosion in Iraq last year.

50-pound sandbag tossed from a truck.

Smart and strong Malinois and German shepherds predominate, but other breeds are trained, too. Even small dogs are occasionally taught to detect explosives in submarines and other close quarters.

In Iraq, the demand for explosives-hunting dogs has increased. The dogs lead patrols with their handlers in tow, sniffing bags and other objects along the way.

The bombs have bulked up in past months, putting dogs and handlers at increased risk. To protect handlers, some dogs are trained to wear backpacks with radios and respond to remote voice commands.

"As much as I love these dogs, their job is to take a bullet for me," says trainer Sgt. Douglas Timberlake.

The military estimates spending six months and \$25,000 to buy, feed, train and care for the average dog. The dogs are tended by 440 Army veterinarians worldwide. They have two physical exams each year. They get

blood tests, X-rays and electrocardiograms.

When dogs break teeth, military veterinarians sometimes do root canals. "Here we treat them, because that's part of that dog's equipment: to use his teeth," says Lorraine Linn, a dog surgeon at Lackland.

Dogs have been weapons of war since ancient times. Thousands were enlisted by the United States in World Wars I and II and in Vietnam. Dogs cannot be awarded medals under military protocol, but commanders sometimes honor them unofficially.

Care for wounded military dogs was limited in earlier wars, and the end of a dog's working days usually meant the end of its life. But that, too, is changing.

Since 2000, a law allows many dogs to be adopted by police departments, former handlers and others if the dogs' temperaments are suitable.

Tech. Sgt. Jamie Dana's German shepherd Rex was plenty friendly, but also young and healthy. The military didn't want to let him

go.

Rex ended up on an Iraqi roadway when a bomb blew the door off the Humvee he was riding in with Dana in June 2005. His injuries were minor, but Dana nearly died with collapsed lungs, a fractured spine and brain trauma.

When Rex visited her a couple of weeks later at the hospital, she whistled for him and he jumped on her bed. Dana's days as a soldier were over, but she missed her pal.

Friends and family petitioned Congress, and a law was finally signed to allow still-able dogs to be adopted in certain cases.

Now Rex lives on a farm in Smethport, Pa., with Dana, who believes the dog wasn't really meant for a soldier's life.

"He loves everybody," she says. "He sleeps beside my bed."

Other dogs in the war zone aren't so lucky. Though no careful count is kept, Army veterinarian Lt. Col. Michael Lagutchik, who supervises care at Lackland, believes about 10 dogs have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Injuries are common among the dogs. They are cut or scraped, often on their paws. They are bitten by spiders or stung by scorpions. Their eyes and ears are irritated by blowing sand.

The most common injury is overheating in the desert sun, and it can sometimes spur a dangerous stomach condition called bloat.

Handler Jason Cannon, now a Tennessee state patrolman, knew something was wrong when his dog started to act skittish while searching people crossing into Iraq from Syria. He and his dog were flown back to the base, where a veterinarian suspected dehydration and prescribed two weeks of rest for the dog. "We went out and played ball, pretty much hung out," Cannon says. "Mainly, we didn't do any work at all. 'Vacation' is a good word for it."

Less often, dogs on a mission get shot or bombed. Lackland trainer Trapanger Stephens, who served in Iraq, remembers seeing a veterinarian treat a gunshot-wounded dog with a breathing tube right in the field. The veterinarian did surgery then and there.

Cpl. Megan Leavey and her dog ended up back at Camp Pendleton, Calif., when a home-made bomb exploded in Ramadi. She suffered a concussion, and the dog injured one shoulder. The dog underwent a regimen familiar to athletes: icing, heating, stretching and motion exercises.

Dogs may wear bulletproof vests or booties to cushion their paws. They sometimes wear dog goggles — called "doggles" — to keep out sand.

Regardless of the dangers, the dogs are fearless. For them, checking a road for bombs means a fun walk, their handlers say. "They like what they do," says Poelaert, who has returned to Exeter, N.H.

These days, he's trying to move beyond memories of the Ramadi explosion, which killed dozens of people, including his best friend, fellow handler Adam Cann.

One image still inspires him, though: the sight of Cann's wounded dog stretched over his body, as if to protect him.